


URBAN DISTRICT
OF MELTHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1949



BY
ERIC WARD
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SLAITHWAITE :
A. T. GREEN & CO., CARR LANE
1950



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29795369>

URBAN DISTRICT
OF MELTHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1949

BY
ERIC WARD
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SLAITHWAITE :
A. T. GREEN & CO., CARR LANE
1950

For Index see Last Page.

For Index see Last Page.

Meltham Urban District

LIST OF COUNCILLORS for the year 1949.

Chairman :

J. W. HOLLINGWORTH, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

J. C. T. CALLANDER, Esq.

A. QUARMBY, Esq.

Miss H. B. HAIGH.

R. F. WOODHEAD, Esq.

H. STEAD, Esq.

H. HIRST, Esq.

E. GREENHALGH, Esq.

J. H. HIRST, Esq.

M. H. KAYE, Esq.

E. MOORHOUSE, Esq.

E. V. QUARMBY, Esq., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

ERIC WARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(appointed 8th March, 1949)

Sanitary Inspector :

E. WALLER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Building Surveyor and Water Engineer
to the Council.

Divisional Health Office,
Woodville,
Scar Lane,
Golcar,

Nr. Huddersfield.

September, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Meltham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my 3rd Annual Report on the Health of the Meltham Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1949.

The County Council Scheme of Divisional Health Administration commenced on the 1st January, 1948, has continued to expand during the year.

From the various particulars of the Vital Statistics relating to the District given in the Report it will be noted that there has been an estimated increase in the population of 57, although the Birth rate fell from 17.11 to 11.61 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Housing remains one of the most pressing needs of the District. Many more new houses are required to provide for the present shortage and to replace existing obsolete dwellings.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration given me during the year and to record my appreciation for the assistance given to me by the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area in acres	5,906
Enumerated Population (Census 1931)	5,051
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1948)	5,026
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1949)	5,083
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1949	1,794
Rateable Value (31st March, 1950)	£31,058
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (March, 1950)	£120

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	33	26	59
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	33	26	59

Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population : 11.61

Still Births :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 of total live and still births : 16.66

Deaths (males 33, females 24)	57
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	11.21
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	10.09
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil
Number of deaths of Infants under one year of age	Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 population from :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.39
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.59
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1.18
Cancer	1.97
Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria)	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (children under 2 years of age)	Nil
Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of children under 2 years of age per 1,000 births	Nil

Section 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The Urban District is situated on high ground 5 miles to the south-west of Huddersfield, the principal centre of population being the township of Meltham, whilst other hamlets in the District are Meltham Mills, Helme and Wilshaw.

High moorland rising to a height of over 1,500 feet forms the western and southern parts of the District. The principal industries now carried on in the area are engineering, including tractor building, woollen textiles, silk dressing, brick and tile making and mixed farming.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1949 was 5,083 as compared with 5,026 at mid-1948. This increase is due partly to an excess of births over deaths of 2 but mainly to an influx of population from other areas.

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births, a net total of 59 live births (33 male, 26 female) was registered in the District during the year, a decrease of 27 compared with the previous year.

The BIRTH RATE is 11.61 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 17.11 for the previous year, 16.7 for England and Wales, 17.2 for the West Riding Administrative County and 16.8 for the Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts.

There were no illegitimate live births as compared with 4 in the previous year.

Stillbirths.

After adjustment for transfers, 1 stillbirth was registered during the year as compared with 2 for the previous year. This figure gives a rate of 16.66 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 0.19 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 22.73 and 0.39 respectively for 1948.

Deaths.

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in, and assigned to the District was 57 (33 male, 24 female), a decrease of 6 as compared with the year 1948.

For the first time since the war area comparability factors are available for the year 1949 and for your District this is 0.90. This is a factor by which the crude death rate of the area should be multiplied in order to make it comparable, from a mortality point of view, with the crude death rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area, the crude death rate of which should be similarly

modified with its own factor for the purpose. If the populations of all areas were similarly constituted as regards the proportions of their sex and age group components, their crude death rates (deaths per 1,000 population) could be accepted as valid comparative measures of the mortalities experienced by the several populations. In practice, however, populations are not thus similarly constituted and their crude death rates fail as true comparative mortality indices in that their variations are not due to mortality alone but arise also from differences in their population constitution, i.e. of two areas, that containing a much larger proportion of elderly people would in all probability have the higher crude death rate and this in spite of the fact that the general health conditions of its population may be the better of the two. The adjusted death rate takes into account the variations in age and sex constitution of the population.

The ADJUSTED DEATH RATE is 10.09 per 1,000 of the population. The Crude Death Rate is 11.21 as compared with a Crude Death Rate of 12.53 for the previous year.

The following were the principal causes of death in order of frequency :—

(i)	Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	...	22
(ii)	Cancer	... ..	10
(iii)	Diseases of the Respiratory System (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... ..	6
(iv)	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	... ..	6

These 4 causes accounted for 77.19% of the total deaths. Particulars of the various causes of death and the sex distribution are given in the following table :—

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
All Causes	M	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	7	10	15
	F	24	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	2	4	3	13
1. Typhoid/Paratyphoid Fevers	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
2. Cerebro—Spinal Fever	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3. Scarlet Fever	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4. Whooping Cough	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5. Diphtheria	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6. Tuberculosis, respiratory system	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	2	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
8. Syphilitic Disease	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9. Influenza	M	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
10. Measles	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus (M)	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cancer of Uterus (F)	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
	F	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
15. Cancer of Breast	F	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	M	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	2	....
	F	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
17. Diabetis	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
18. Intra-Cranial Vas. Lesions	M	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
	F	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
19. Heart Disease	M	13	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	2	7
	F	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	6
20. Other diseases of the Circulatory System....	M	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
21. Bronchitis	M	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	2
	F	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
22. Pneumonia	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
25. Diarrhoea (under 2)	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
26. Appendicitis	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
27. Other digestive diseases	M	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
28. Nephritis	M	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
29. Puerperal Sepsis	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
30. Other maternal causes	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31. Premature Birth	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
32. Congenital Malformations Birth injury: Inf Dis.	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
33. Suicide	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
34. Road Traffic Accidents	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
35. Other Violent Causes....	M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	F	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
36. All other Causes	M	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....
	F	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	1

Maternal Deaths and Mortality.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other maternal causes.

Infant Mortality.

After correction for transferable deaths, there were no deaths of infants under 1 year of age, as compared with one in the previous year .

Comparative Statistics.

	Meltham Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (provisional figures)
BIRTH RATE Per 1,000 estimated population ...	11.61	16.8	17.2	16.7
DEATH RATES All per 1,000 estimated population				
All Causes (Crude)	11.21	12.5	12.1	11.7
All Causes (Adjusted)	10.09	12.8	*	—
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) ...	—	0.08	0.08	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	0.39	0.32	0.32	0.40
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.20	0.05	0.05	0.05
Respiratory Diseases (ex- cluding Tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.18	1.48	1.44	*
Cancer	1.97	1.88	1.81	1.87
Heart and Circulatory Diseases ...	4.33	4.36	4.19	*
INFANT MORTALITY	Nil	37	38	32
DIARRHOEA Deaths of infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births	Nil	3.01	3.27	3.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0.15	0.15	0.22
Other Causes	Nil	0.60	0.68	0.76
Total	Nil	0.75	0.83	0.98

* Figures not available.

Section 11.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

In addition to the Medical Officer of Health who is a part-time officer, the staff consists of a part-time Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor. Clerical Assistance is provided by the Clerk's Department.

Laboratory Facilities.

All the bacteriological laboratory work required to be undertaken by the Health Department and by General Practitioners is carried out at the Wakefield Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council, whilst samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the laboratories of Messrs. Richardson & Jeffe, Public Analysts, Bradford.

Ambulance Facilities

(a) Cases of Infectious Diseases.

The ambulance of the Isolation Hospital to which the patient is admitted is used for the removal of the patient.

(b) Cases of sickness and accident.

An Ambulance Service is operated by the West Riding County Council, the Meltham Urban District being in Ambulance Area No. 17. The principal depot for the area is situated at Huddersfield.

Professional Nursing in the Home

General. Home nursing is undertaken by a full-time home nurse who is employed by the West Riding County Council and resident in Meltham.

Midwifery. There is one whole-time midwife employed by the West Riding County Council who is resident in Meltham.

Further details of the nursing services provided in the area will be found in Section VII of this report.

Treatment Centres, Clinics and Hospitals

Infant Welfare Centres

Held weekly on Tuesday afternoon.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Held monthly on the first Thursday afternoon in the Month.

School Clinics

Held weekly on Tuesday morning.

All these clinics are held in the Baptist School, Meltham.

Chest Clinic

Held on Tuesday afternoon and Friday afternoon at 1, Peel Street, Huddersfield.

Venereal Diseases Clinics

Held at York Place, New North Road, Huddersfield; Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, and the General Infirmary, Dewsbury.

Hospitals.

(a) Infectious Diseases :

Under the National Health Service Act, Meltham is placed in the Leeds Regional Hospital Area, and cases of infectious diseases, other than smallpox, are admitted to the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield.

Accommodation for cases of Smallpox is provided by the Regional Board at Cottingham Smallpox Hospital, Cottingham, East Yorkshire.

(b) General Hospitals :

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.
St. Mary's Hospital, Deanhouse, Holmfirth.

(c) Maternity : Arrangements are made for the admission of patients to the Princess Royal Maternity Home, Huddersfield, and various general hospitals.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The principal sources of piped water are the undertakings of the Urban District Council and the Huddersfield Corporation.

The Council's supply is derived from 3 springs situated on the high moorland surrounding the township, whilst the supply from the Huddersfield Corporation is purchased in bulk and is used mainly to augment the Council's supply during periods of drought.

The water from both sources is chlorinated before distribution by the Council's mains which serve the greater part of the district. The supply normally is satisfactory as regards quality and quantity but during periods of drought, owing to lack of storage accommodation and the inability of the Huddersfield Corporation to supply extra water, serious shortages occur, as was the case during the summer and autumn of the year under review.

No trouble has been experienced as a result of plumbo-solvent action. During the year 4 samples of water were submitted for examination in this respect and all were reported satisfactory.

Routine monthly sampling for bacteriological examination has continued. Details of the reports on samples taken from the various sources of supply and from consumers' taps are shown in the following table:—

Presumptive B. Coli in 100 ml.

1949	Scope Spring	Fearn Nook	Royd Tank	Royd Pump	Filter House Mixed Before Treatment	Treated Water from Consumers' Taps
Jan.	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Feb.	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
March	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	2	Nil
April	Nil	1	Nil	—	8	Nil
May	1	180	5	—	Nil	Nil
	—	Nil	—	—	—	Nil
June	3	Nil	—	3	Nil	Nil
July	Nil	Nil	Nil	10	1	Nil
Aug.	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	Nil	Nil
Sept.	50	5	Nil	Nil	25	18
	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Oct.	90	Nil	2	1	7	17
	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Nov.	1	Nil	Nil	—	17	Nil
Dec.	8	5	1	—	50	Nil

In addition 13 samples were taken from various private supplies, including mill dams and streams. Of these, 6 were reported as satisfactory, 2 of doubtful quality and 5 as grossly polluted.

A further 4 samples from various sources were taken for the purpose of chemical analysis, the results in all cases being satisfactory.

No water main extensions were carried out during the year.

Water purchased from the Huddersfield Corporation during the year amounted to 14,055,000 gallons recorded as follows by meter and Lea Recorder :—

By Meter10,601,000 gallons
 By Lea Recorder 3,454,000 gallons

Drainage and Sewerage

There is one Sewage Outfall Works in the District which is situated off the Huddersfield Road, near Bent Ley Mills. During the year no alterations or repairs have been carried out at the Works except for the routine maintenance work.

The unsewered portions of the District include the hamlets of Helme and Wilshaw. It is desirable that sewerage schemes to cover these 2 hamlets should be carried out as soon as practicable.

Rivers and Streams

Some pollution of water courses with sewage takes place in the District. This cannot be remedied until sewerage schemes are carried out for Helme and Wilshaw.

Closet Accommodation.

The closet accommodation for many of the houses in the District is most unsatisfactory. From records available it would appear that there are in the District 1,197 water closets, 133 privies and 158 tub closets. These figures include closets provided at non-domestic premises.

During the year 2 privies and 2 tub closets were reconstructed as water closets, whilst 5 additional water closets were provided for old property, and 35 for new council houses.

The abolition of privy middens and tub closets is one of the most pressing needs of the District. In approved cases a grant of £2 and a free dustbin is made by the Council where owners convert a privy or tub closet into a water closet. New tubs are supplied by the Council to property owners on request, at a small charge above cost price.

Public Cleansing.

Scavenging is undertaken throughout the District, the work being undertaken by a private contractor. Domestic refuse and tub closet contents are collected weekly, whilst privy middens are cleared approximately once a quarter. Cesspools are emptied every six months.

The cost of the cleansing services for 1949 was £1948.

The Council supplies ashbins to property owners at a small charge above cost price.

Salvage

The collection of salvage as a separate item was discontinued during the year owing to the difficulty in disposing of it and the low prices offered. Salvage is now collected with the refuse.

Shops Acts

During the year 12 visits and inspections were made of shops.

Smoke Abatement

During the year 12 observations of industrial chimneys were made. In 4 instances the emission of black smoke exceeded the period allowed in the bye-law. One Cautionary Notice was served and further consultations have taken place with officials of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

Camping Sites

There are no camping sites in the District.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

A part-time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council. During the year 23 inspections for Rats and Mice were made. In 17 cases the standard treatment laid down by the Ministry of Food was applied and these minor infestations cleared.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Factories Act, 1937

The following is an extract from a separate report submitted to the Director of Statistics of the Ministry of Labour on Form 572:—

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

Premises.	No. on Register	Insp't'ns	Written Notices	Owners Prosec'ted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	29	18	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	11	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	—	—	—	—
Total	52	29	2	—

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred by H.M Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness : Sanitary conveniences	3	3	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	1	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total	8	4	—	—

Schools

There are in the District 5 schools, all of which are voluntary Church Schools. Those at Meltham, Meltham Mills and Helme have a piped supply of water from public mains, whilst at Wilshaw a piped supply is obtained from a private source.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Nature of Inspection	Num- ber	Informal (inc. verbal)	Formal	Complied with	Outstanding at end of Year
Infectious Diseases.	32	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	32	—	—	—	—
Nuisances	73	63	5	61	7
Dwellings	185	119	61	118	59
Cowsheds	29	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	11	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	11	—	—	—	—
Ash Closets, etc.	132	6	—	6	—
Workshops	19	6	—	6	—
Schools	16	—	—	—	—
Rats and Mice	23	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

...

Housing is still the principal post war need of the District. There is a grave shortage of houses and many of the existing houses are unfit for occupation and should be dealt with under the appropriate sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector has continued to report on the conditions of all houses vacated by persons moving to new council houses and where the former houses are found to be in a poor state of repair action has been taken under the Housing or Public Health Acts.

During the year notices under section 9 of the Housing Act were served in respect of 8 houses, under Section 11 in respect of 17 houses and under Section 12 in respect of 1 house. In addition notices in respect of 20 houses were served under various sections of the Public Health Act. In consequence of these notices and those issued during the previous year, 20 houses were rendered fit during 1949.

Overcrowding

The records of overcrowding condition in the area are incomplete but applications for council houses indicate the prevalence of many cases of overcrowding and unsatisfactory housing conditions. At the end of the year there were 10 known cases of overcrowding, 2 additional cases came to notice during the year, and 4 were abated.

Provision of New Houses.

The Council's housing programme made further progress during the year, a further 35 of the 86 houses already approved by the Ministry being completed during the year. No new houses were built by private enterprise, but licences for the erection of 6 were granted by the Council.

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	121
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose —		171
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	54
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		87
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	32
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	53

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	15
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a)	By owners	10
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	20
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a)	By owners	10
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation. ...	17
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	1

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	21
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	58
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	29
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	0

Section V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

On the 1st October, 1949, the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, came into operation. Under these regulations the supervision of the production of milk, the registration of producers and the issue of licences to produce designated milk have passed from the County Districts, County Boroughs and County Councils to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In future, whilst your officers can still visit farms in the course of an investigation of suspected milk-borne infection, routine inspection for advisory and sampling purposes has ceased, and it is no longer the duty of the Authority to require producers to carry out improvements to their premises. This work is now to be undertaken by officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Urban District Council are now only responsible for the registration and supervision of retailers and their premises and the issue of Dealers' and Supplementary Licences to the retailers of designated milk. Sampling will be limited to milk in course of delivery and when special enquiries are necessary.

Practically all the milk supplied in the District is produced in the area and is distributed mainly by the producers. A little milk is sold wholesale for distribution outside the area. One dealer retails Pasteurised T.T. Milk and the Co-operative Society retails bottled sterilised milk at two of its shops.

On the appointed day, i.e. 1st October, 1949, when the records were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, there were on the register some 34 cowkeepers who maintained some 350 cows housed in 51 cowsheds. Of the producers 7 were licensed to produce T.T. milk whilst 4 were licensed Accredited producers. Of the 34 registered as cowkeepers 30 were producer/retailers and 4 disposed of the milk wholesale.

No samples of milk were submitted for examination for cleanliness by officers of the Council during the year.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1939-46

The following licences were granted during the year :—

(a) By the Meltham Urban District Council :

1. Dealers' Sterilised	2
2. T.T. (Pasteurised)	1

(b) By the West Riding County Council : (Producers' licences),

1. Tuberculin Tested	7
2. Accredited	4

Ice Cream

At the end of 1949 there was 1 premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and 8 registered for sale only. There were 5 samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year, one of which was unsatisfactory.

Meat.

No regular slaughtering of animals has been carried out at any of the slaughterhouses in the District, all of which have remained closed by virtue of the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order 1940.

All meat for sale in the District is derived from the Government Slaughterhouse and depot at Huddersfield, where inspection is carried out.

The 4 private slaughterhouses in the District have continued to be licensed in spite of the fact that there has been no regular slaughtering. Occasional emergency slaughterings have been carried out at these premises during the year.

There are in the District 4 butchers' shops which have been regularly visited. No premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 for the purposes of the manufacture of sausages, potted meat, pickles or preserved foods.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933

Licences in operation under the provisions of the Act numbered 16. One new licence was issued and 15 which expired during the year were renewed.

Bread

There are 4 bakehouses in the District, none of them underground. The premises are kept in a satisfactory condition, a total of 12 inspections being made during the year.

... **Other Foods**

At retail shops the following other foods were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Processed Peas	A2's	1 tin
„ „	A1's	2 tins
Sandwich Spread	.....	61 jars
Herrings (14 ozs.)	.....	1 tin
Beetroot (16 ozs.)	.....	1 tin
Grapefruit Juice (20 ozs.)	.....	4 tins
Norwegian Brisling (3½ ozs.)	.....	1 tin
Minced Beef Loaf (12 ozs.)	.....	2 tins
Danish Pork (16 ozs.)	.....	1 tin
Canned Pears (2½ size)	.....	2 tins
Mixed Pickles (16 ozs.)	.....	1 jar
Fillited Cod	.....	3½ lbs

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The West Riding County Council is the authority responsible for the Food Adulteration Section of the Act. The following particulars of samples taken during the year have been supplied by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures.

Milk samples examined	.....27
Drugs examined	.....1
Dry Goods examined	.....4
Prosecutions in respect of milk samples	.....Nil
Cautions issued in respect of dry goods	.....Nil

Section VI.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Apart from the increased incidence of Scarlet Fever and Measles there was no unusual prevalence of infectious or other diseases during the year.

Diphtheria

There was one case of Diphtheria notified during the year, as compared with 2 in 1948, but after admission to hospital the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Supplies of Anti-Toxin for the treatment of suspected cases and contacts are obtainable by medical practitioners through the hospital service, stocks being held at the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield and the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Diphtheria Prophylactic for immunisation can be obtained by medical practitioners on application to the Divisional Medical Officer.

The immunisation campaign continued during the year, the inoculations being carried out by medical practitioners and officers of the County Health Department. Full particulars of immunisations carried out and the immunisation state of the area will be found in Section VII of this report.

Scarlet Fever

This disease was more prevalent than in the previous year, 26 cases being notified as compared with 10 in 1948. Although the disease was mild in character in most of the cases all the patients were admitted to hospital, 4 being admitted to the Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital and 22 to Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield.

Of these cases 1 was a male aged 36, 2 were females aged 13 and 21, and the remainder were aged between 2 and 10 years.

Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.

During the year 9 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia, as compared with 8 in the previous year, and one case of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia were notified.

There were no deaths registered as attributable to this disease as compared with 1 in 1948.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

No cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

There was 1 case, a female aged 10, notified during the year. She was admitted to Mill Hill Isolation Hospital and was making satisfactory progress at the end of the year.

Whooping Cough

During the year 2 cases of this disease were notified as compared with 35 in 1948.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case of this disease was notified during the year but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Measles

During the year 94 cases of Measles were notified as compared with 64 in the previous year.

The following table shows the monthly distribution of confirmed cases of infectious diseases notified during 1949:—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tot'l
Measles ...	37	16	4	14	19	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	94
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	9
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	7	3	3	—	26
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals:	40	17	6	16	21	7	4	2	7	7	6	—	133

Cancer

The number of deaths attributable to Cancer during the year numbered 10 (6 male, 4 female), as compared with 7 in 1948. The Cancer death rate is 1.97 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with a rate of 1.39 for the previous year. The corresponding rates for the Administrative County and the West Riding Urban Districts are 1.81 and 1.88 respectively.

Tuberculosis

A total of 12 new cases of Tuberculosis was entered in the Register during the year, as compared with 5 in 1948.

There were 2 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from all other forms making a total of 3 deaths from all forms of this disease, the same number as in the previous year.

The following tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
(a) Number of cases on Register at commencement of year	8	5	—	4
(b) Number of cases notified first time during the year	2	7	—	3
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	—	1p	—	—
(e) Number of cases removed from the Register	2	4	—	2
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register	8	9	—	5

P : Posthumous

Age (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	8	—	3	—	2	—	1

Meltham 1949.

Table showing Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year

Disease	Total Number of cases Notified	Number of cases in which Diagno- sis con- firmed	Number of cases Admitted Mill Hill Isolation Hospital	Deaths	Age distribution of confirmed cases.														Over 65								
					Under 1		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-10		10-15			15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Measles	94	94	—	—	2	2	4	2	18	7	9	4	13	9	12	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Prim- ary Pneumonia	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influen- zal Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	26	26	26a	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	2	7	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(a) 4 cases admitted direct to Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital, Meltham.

SECTION VII

SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER PART III OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION 20

The County Districts forming Division No. 20 are as follows:—

Colne Valley U.D.	Kirkburton U.D.
Denby Dale U.D.	Meltham U.D.
Holmfirth U.D.	

Area of the Division (in acres)	... ..	64,265
Estimated Population (mid-1949)	... ..	74,252

Divisional Staff :

Divisional Medical Officer :

E. WARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Deputy Divisional Medical Officer :

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 8th March, 1949)

Assistant County Medical Officer :

(Part Time)

J. R. COCKROFT, M.B., Ch.B.

Clinic Medical Officers

(Part Time)

G. ASPINWALL, M.B., Ch.B.

C. DICKSON, M.B., Ch.B.

L. E. LUCAS, M.B., Ch.B.

H. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.

H. C. PICKERING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. A. STEPHENS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B.

M. V. WILBY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Miss M. A. BAILEY, S.R.N., Resigned 26-10-49.

Miss D. BOWDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss D. BROOKE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss M. CAREY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss V. P. M. CASE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Mrs. N. CRANSTON, S.R.M., S.C.M., T.A.

Miss E. EASTWOOD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss M. FLINTOFF, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss R. M. GINDERS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Mrs. P. D. HUGHES, S.R.N., Resigned 31-12-49.

Miss M. E. PORRITT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Mrs. A. ROYSTON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss D. WOOD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Senior Clerk :

G. A. BEATSON.

ESTIMATES OF THE SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

Age	England and Wales		W.R. Admin. County		Division No. 20		Colne Valley U.D.		Denby Dale U.D.		Holmfirth U.D.		Kirkburton U.D.		Meltham U.D.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.
All Ages	19,888,000	22,268,000	742,965	801,445	34,082	38,900	10,305	11,585	4,616	5,047	8,727	10,083	8,159	9,521	2,275	2,664
0—4	1,845,000	1,754,000	68,017	64,663	2,820	2,682	828	788	419	398	733	697	627	597	213	202
5—14	2,865,000	2,764,000	108,043	103,933	4,136	3,985	1,171	1,102	570	562	1,117	1,058	995	979	283	284
15—17	845,000	853,000	31,192	31,173	1,113	1,214	347	366	153	145	249	313	294	306	70	84
18—19	258,000	568,000	10,173	19,954	391	799	102	254	61	120	108	189	95	175	25	61
20—24	1,166,000	1,509,000	45,935	54,253	1,773	2,170	553	672	251	276	457	598	403	467	109	157
25—34	3,067,000	3,291,000	112,945	116,486	4,821	5,245	1,486	1,613	656	692	1,240	1,332	1,117	1,245	322	363
35—44	3,276,000	3,414,000	120,758	121,891	5,937	6,242	1,844	1,846	768	777	1,494	1,616	1,447	1,579	384	424
45—54	2,627,000	2,991,000	99,447	110,185	4,990	5,825	1,516	1,743	681	777	1,206	1,481	1,243	1,453	344	371
55—64	2,007,000	2,460,000	75,177	88,253	4,115	5,086	1,298	1,558	494	622	1,057	1,273	1,013	1,284	253	349
65—74	1,368,000	1,776,000	51,834	63,102	2,982	3,963	856	1,152	417	483	790	1,033	724	1,044	195	251
75—84	503,000	756,000	17,713	24,230	914	1,501	278	447	129	166	258	426	181	356	68	106
85 and over	61,000	132,000	1,731	3,322	90	188	26	44	17	29	18	67	20	36	9	12

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

	Colne Valley U.D.	Denby Dale U.D.	Holm- firth U.D.	Kirk- burton U.D.	Mel- tham U.D.	Division No. 20	Aggregate West Riding U.D's.	West Riding Admin. County	Eng- land & Wales prov. figures
Population	22,230	9,729	19,090	18,120	5,083	74,252	1,163,630	1,577,500	*
Live Births	337	167	307	223	59	1,093	19,572	27,176	*
Still Births	13	4	3	3	1	24	485	674	*
Deaths	317	125	258	189	57	946	14,586	19,050	*
Deaths under 1 year of age	8	8	9	6	—	31	720	1,037	*
Birth Rate Per 1,000 estimated population	15.16	17.17	16.08	12.31	11.61	14.72	16.8	17.2	16.7
Death Rates All per 1,000 est- imated population All Causes (Crude)	14.26	12.85	13.51	10.43	11.21	12.74	12.5	12.1	11.7
„ „ (Adjusted)	13.12	11.69	11.75	9.59	10.09	*	12.8	*	*
Zymotic Diseases.....	0.04	0.10	—	0.06	—	0.04	0.08	0.08	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	0.36	—	0.05	0.11	0.39	0.17	0.32	0.32	0.40
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.13	—	0.05	—	0.20	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05
Respiratory Diseases (excluding tuber- culosis of respir- atory system)	1.30	0.93	1.41	1.21	1.18	1.25	1.48	1.44	*
Cancer	1.98	1.85	2.41	1.49	1.97	1.95	1.88	1.81	1.87
Heart and Circul- atory Diseases	5.26	4.73	4.40	3.81	4.33	4.55	4.36	4.19	*
Infant Mortality	23.74	47.90	29.32	26.91	—	28.36	37	38	32
Diarrhoea Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births	2.97	—	—	—	—	0.91	3.01	3.27	3.0
Maternal Mortality Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.15	0.15	0.22
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.60	0.68	0.76
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.75	0.83	0.98

* Figures not available.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1949 was 1093 (565 male, 528 females), a decrease of 68 compared with the previous year.

The BIRTH RATE was 14.72 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 15.70 for 1948.

The illegitimate live births numbered 40 or 3.66% of the total live births, a decrease of 6 compared with the previous year.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 946 (486 males, 460 females), a decrease of 23 on the total for 1948.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 12.74 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 13.11 for the previous year.

The following were the principal causes of death in order of frequency:—

(i)	Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	...	338
(ii)	Cancer	... ..	145
(iii)	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.	... ..	140
(iv)	Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... ..	93

These 4 causes accounted for 75.69% of the total deaths.

Infant Mortality

In 1949 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 31, a decrease of 9 compared with the previous year.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE was 28.36 per 1,000 live births as compared with 34.45 for 1948.

The death rate amongst legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births was 29.44 as compared with 32.29 for 1948.

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age as compared with 4 for the previous year.

The following table gives the causes of death of all infants at various ages under one year :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death	Under 1 day	1-2 days	2-5 days	5-7 days	Total under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
1. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
2. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
3. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
4. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
5. Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
6. Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
7. Congenital Malformations	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	7
8. Premature Birth	3	—	2	—	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
9. Injury at Birth ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
10. Asphyxia during or after birth ...	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
11. Accidental Suffocation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4
12. Maternal Toxaemia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
13. Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTAL	8	3	2	—	13	3	—	16	6	3	3	3	31

Epidemiology

Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Polioencephalitis

During the year 32 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis and 8 cases of Acute Polioencephalitis occurred in the Divisional area and 6 deaths were recorded as attributable to these diseases. The incidence was high in the Colne Valley and Kirkburton U.D's. whilst Holmfirth, Denby Dale and Meltham had 4, 2 and 1 cases respectively.

In the Colne Valley U.D. the areas chiefly affected were Marsden, Slaithwaite and Golcar, the cases appearing in those districts in that order with approximately one to two months elapsing between the commencement of occurrence in each area. In the Kirkburton U.D. the disease pursued a more rambling course, the outlying districts being the first to be affected.

The distribution of cases is shown in the following table :—

Urban District	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Nov.	Dec.	Tot'l
Colne Valley	1	4	9	5(a)	2(a)	....	....	21
Denby Dale	1	1	....	....	....	2
Holmfirth	2	1	1	....	4
Kirkburton....	1	3(b)	2	5	....	1	....	12
Meltham	1	....	....	1
Total	2	7	12	13	4	2	....	40

(a) Polioencephalitis.

(b) Includes one case of Polioencephalitis.

The cases ranged from severe to abortive types as shown in the following table, and all cases were followed up both at home and in hospital :—

Severity	No. of cases.	Remarks
Severe.	8	5 cases died and at the end of the year 3 cases were recovering in the Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, with a severe degree of paralysis of all limbs.
Moderate.	8	Paralysis affecting only the muscles of one limb. These cases are making good progress and being satisfactorily rehabilitated. Are being followed up closely.
Mild.	14	Muscular weakness only which cleared up, leaving no disability.
Abortive.	10	

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF CONFIRMED CASES OF ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS AND ACUTE POLIOENCEPHALITIS.

Urban District	Number of cases notified	Number of cases in which diagnosis confirmed	Number of cases admitted to Mill Hill Isolation Hospital	Deaths	Age distribution of confirmed cases																							
					Under 1		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65		Over 65	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Colne Valley	21	21	17 (a)	5 (d)	-	1*	2*	-	1	1	-	-	-	2*	5†	3*	-	1*	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denby Dale	3	2	2 (b)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Holmfirth	6	4	4 (b)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkburton	12	12	11 (c)	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1*	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meltham	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Division 20	43	40	35	6	1	1*	2*	1	1	3	1	-	1*	2*	7†	6*	-	2*	5	-	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	-

- (a) 3 cases admitted direct to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
 4 cases transferred to Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield.
 1 case transferred to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
 (b) 1 case transferred to Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield.
 (c) 1 case admitted direct to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
 1 case admitted direct to Seacroft Isolation Hospital.
 1 case transferred to Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield.
 1 case transferred to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
 (d) Includes 1 inward transferable death.

* includes 1 case of Acute Polioencephalitis.
 † includes 2 cases of Acute Polioencephalitis.

Food Poisoning

Only 2 cases of food poisoning were notified in the area during the year, these being members of the same household. The infecting agent was not identified but was thought to be a tin of pressed meat. Both patients recovered after an illness lasting about 12 hours.

At a County School some 60 children and 5 teachers were reported as having suffered from diarrhoea about 12 hours after consuming a school meal. Again the infecting agent was not found. All affected recovered after about 12 hours indisposition.

Special efforts have been made in the various districts to improve the conditions under which food is prepared. In many instances premises not registered under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act were found to be in use. Where found suitable these have been registered; in other cases alterations have been required before registration. Lectures have been given to the local Chamber of Trade, senior scholars, etc., by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in one district, and workers in school canteens attended a lecture demonstration given by the Divisional Medical Officer.

Diphtheria

Arrangements for immunisation have continued as in previous years. A few special immunisation sessions have been held at local schools but most of the inoculations have been given at Infant Welfare Centres or by private medical practitioners. The response has been reasonably satisfactory and no special mobile campaigns have been held

Immunisations carried out during 1949 were as follows :—

Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total	“Booster” doses
862	65	927	570

Records of the immunisation state of children in the Divisional Area are incomplete and the number of children immunised at the 31st December, 1949, is no doubt higher than as shown below.

Age at 31-12-49 i.e., Born in Year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5 to 9 1940-44	10 to 14 1935-39	Total Under 15
Number immunised	33	544	818	729	533	2,136	1,900	6,693
Estimated mid- year child popula- tion 1949, as sup- plied by Regis- trar-General	Children under 5 5,735					Children 5-14 8,425		14,160
Percentage of child population immunised	46.32					47.89		47.2

Smallpox

Since the repeal of the Vaccination Acts infant vaccination has relatively ceased. Births registered in 1948, after correction for transfers numbered 1,161 but only 53 infants under 1 year of age were vaccinated during 1949, and they were, with few exceptions, all treated by general practitioners. Efforts have been made to encourage vaccination at Infant Welfare Centres but they have met with little success. Some medical officers are not very enthusiastic regarding vaccination and prefer not to carry out vaccinations at ordinary Infant Welfare Clinics. The Health visitors are asked to stress the importance of vaccination when doing home visitations and at Infant Welfare Clinics. Some feel that the

lack of success is due to the fact that there is no national propaganda in favour of vaccination as there is regarding Diphtheria immunisation, and from this fact argue that it cannot be as important, otherwise there would be large display advertisements in such papers as the "Radio Times" "Home Chat" and local newspapers. It does seem that a national campaign is required if results are to be obtained.

The figures for vaccinations for 1949 are given below :—					
	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 years	Total
	year	years	years	or over	
Vaccinated :	... 53	32	7	6	98
Re-vaccinated	... —	1	—	25	26
Total	... 53	33	7	31	124

Whooping Cough

No scheme for immunisation against Whooping Cough is in operation in the Division but the procedure is apparently carried out fairly widely by general practitioners, who on the whole seem to consider that it is worth while. Very few requests are received from parents but general practitioners have from time to time asked for supplies of combined vaccine.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

Domiciliary Midwifery

It is the intention eventually to separate the Midwifery and Home Nursing Services, and although it will be some time before this can be accomplished all new appointments are made with this intention in view.

The position at the end of the year regarding Midwifery Services was as follows :—

Urban District	Authorised Establishment	Staff at 31st December, 1949	
		Whole-time Midwives	Nurse/Midwives
Colne Valley	3	2	1
Denby Dale	2	2	2
Holmfirth	2	2	—
Kirkburton	2	—	5
Meltham	1	1	—
Relief	1	—	1
Division 20	11	7	9

Three independent midwives signified their intention to practise in the area and attended a total of 3 cases.

Of the 1,114 births notified and attributed to the Division, 367 occurred at home. The following table shows the number of cases attended :—

Cases attended by	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
(a) Whole-time County Midwives (7)	197	20
(b) Nurse/Midwives (8)	120	27
(c) Independent Midwives (3)	—	3
	317	50

In addition 5 cases who resided outside the Division were attended by the whole-time County Midwives as midwives.

Notifications :

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Division :—

Death of Child	4
Stillbirths	5
Artificial Feeding	43
Liability to be a Source of Infection	4
Laying Out the Dead	2

Medical Assistance :

Medical aid forms sent in by midwives during 1949 numbered 109 and were comprised as follows :—

PREGNANCY						LYING-IN					
Threatened Abortion	...	...	...	...	3	Phlebitis	...	...	...	...	1
Ante-Partum Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	3	Skin Condition	...	...	...	...	1
Oedema	...	...	...	...	1	Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	5
Toxaemia	...	...	...	...	1						
Abortion	...	...	...	...	1						
Malpresentation	...	...	...	...	2						
					11						7
LABOUR						THE CHILD					
Ruptured Perineum	...	...	...	...	49	Discharge from Eyes	...	...	...	...	2
Multiple Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	1	Unsatisfactory Umbilicus	...	...	...	...	1
Prolonged Labour	...	...	...	...	16	Prematurity	...	...	...	...	2
Malpresentation	...	...	...	...	4	Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	1
Uterine Inertia	...	...	...	...	3	Poor General Condition	...	...	...	...	2
Retained Placenta	...	...	...	...	7	Malformation	...	...	...	...	1
Precipitate Labour	...	...	...	...	1	Stillbirth	...	...	...	...	1
					81						10

Gas and Air Analgesia :

It is the intention to provide every practising midwife employed by the County Council with a Gas and Air Apparatus for use in relieving pain in childbirth. At the end of 1949, of the 15 midwives in domiciliary practice 12 held the certificate in Gas and Air Analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Analgesics were administered by domiciliary midwives to 156 cases during the year.

Ante and Post Natal Services

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are 8 Ante-Natal Clinics in the Division, all of which are held monthly except the Golcar Clinic, which is held fortnightly. The clinics at Marsden and Slaithwaite were held fortnightly until the 1st April, 1949, when they were reduced to monthly clinics owing to the falling off of attendances. The clinic at Linthwaite was discontinued on the 1st April, 1949.

During the year 278 patients made 971 attendances at the various clinics, details of which are given in the following table from which it will be seen that there has been a further falling off in attendances compared with the previous year, when 325 patients made 1,281 attendances.

Clinic	No. of sessions	No. of patients	No. of attendances	Average attendance per session
Denby Dale	12	17	63	5.25
Holmfirth	12	30	81	6.75
Lepton	12	46	191	15.91
Linthwaite	3	4	9	3.00
Meltham	12	38	127	10.58
Skelmanthorpe	12	33	154	12.83
Marsden	14	52	142	10.14
Golcar	18	32	131	7.28
Slaithwaite	15	26	73	4.86
	110	278	971	8.83

In addition to the regular Ante-Natal Clinics patients are seen at the Child Welfare Clinics.

Attempts have been made to increase the number of patients attending Ante-Natal Clinics by suggesting to midwives the desirability of their patients attending the Ante-Natal Clinics in addition to receiving ante-natal supervision from the booked midwife. In 2 cases the midwife has been placed in joint charge of the clinic along with the health visitor. This has worked well. More general practitioners now are undertaking ante-natal supervision and some are said not to encourage their patients to attend the County Ante-Natal Clinics.

No special Post-Natal Clinics were held. Out patients were seen for post-natal examination at the Ante-Natal Clinics. The attendances however, leave much to be desired. More could be done by way of special visits by health visitors but staffing difficulties prevent this.

Obstetrical Flying Squad.

A "Flying Squad" based on the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary is available for dealing with emergencies arising in the domiciliary midwifery service. The "squad" consists of an obstetrical consultant together with nursing staff and provides facilities for blood transfusion and other emergency treatment.

Normally the call for the services of the "squad" is made to the hospital by the general practitioner attending the case, but a call for assistance can be made direct by the midwife if the urgency and time available precludes her from getting in touch with the patient's own doctor first.

The prompt treatment so available can do much to help to save the lives of many women who would probably die on the way to, or shortly after admission to hospital if untreated before removal.

The "squad" was not called upon to attend any patient in this Division during the year.

Ante-Natal Hostel

An ante-natal hostel, with 24 beds, is established at the old Clifton Isolation Hospital, Brighouse. The hostel will accommodate women who are in need of rest at any stage during pregnancy but who do not have a medical abnormality requiring admission to hospital. The expectant mother can be admitted for any period but the usual time is up to one month. She can enter the hostel and return home for delivery or she can be transferred to a lying-in-bed.

With the limited accommodation available it is not possible to admit all the expectant mothers who would benefit and those most in need are selected. General fatigue, debility, anaemia, nervous strain, varicose veins and a variety of other minor conditions can be catered for.

The charge for accommodation is at the rate of 7/6 per day. This is a maximum charge and payment from individual cases is determined by the application of the County Council scale of assessment.

In spite of efforts made to bring to the notice of general practitioners, midwives and health visitors the facilities available at the hostel for expectant mothers, no cases were admitted from this Division during the year. There is no doubt that there are many patients who would greatly benefit from a stay in the hostel but, owing to the reluctance of mothers to leave their homes unless it is vitally necessary and to the difficulty in providing for other children they might have to leave behind they are unable to accept the vacancies offered.

Institutional Midwifery

The fact that there is no longer any residential qualification required for admission to maternity accommodation in the County Borough of Huddersfield has enabled a greater number of expectant mothers resident in the County area to have their confinements in institutions.

Of 1,114 births attributed to the Division only 367 or 32.9% took place at home.

Owing to shortage of staff, patients are from time to time discharged before the 10th day, sometimes as early as the 4th day, but more generally from the 7th day onwards. The Divisional Medical Officer is informed by the hospital authorities when these early discharges are to take place and he arranges for the appropriate domiciliary midwife to attend the patient at home.

Details of admissions to Maternity Hospitals are shown in the following table :—

ADMISSIONS TO MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Place of Confinement	Colne Valley	Denby Dale	Holmfirth	Kirkburton	Meltham	Total
Princess Royal Maternity Home	193	47	21	104	21	386
Holme Valley Memorial Hospital	—	3	181	1	1	186
St. Luke's Hospital, Huddersfield	33	9	4	22	5	73
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary	25	14	5	10	3	57
Other Maternity Hospitals	1	1	—	—	—	2
Other General Hospitals	2	2	—	6	—	10
Private Nursing Homes	18	5	1	7	2	33
Total Institutional	272	81	212	150	32	747
Domiciliary	75	85	105	73	29	367
Total Confinements	347	166	317	223	61	1,114

Child Welfare

Infant Welfare Clinics

Weekly clinic sessions are held at Golcar, Holmfirth, Honley, Kirkburton, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Meltham, New Mill and Slaithwaite, whilst clinics are conducted fortnightly at Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe.

During the year 2,532 children were seen and a total of 18,292 attendances were made, details of which are shown in the following table as compared with 2,456 children and a total of 18,882 visits in the previous year :—

Clinic	No. of sessions	Children seen			Attendances			Average attendance per session	
		Under 1	1-5	Total	Under 1	1-5	Total	Under 1	1-5
Golcar	50	42	116	158	876	739	1,615	17.52	14.78
Holmfirth	51	78	148	226	950	676	1,626	18.63	13.25
Honley	50	49	161	210	1,018	738	1,756	20.36	14.76
Kirkburton....	48	37	87	124	529	341	870	11.02	7.10
Lepton	47	402	221	623	1,672	644	2,316	35.57	13.70
Linthwaite	50	30	91	121	469	558	1,027	9.38	11.16
Marsden	49	70	195	265	1,286	1,433	2,719	26.25	29.25
Meltham	47	51	187	238	901	862	1,763	19.17	18.34
New Mill	50	38	120	158	669	647	1,316	13.38	12.94
Slaithwaite	51	52	133	185	1,020	882	1,902	20.00	17.30
Denby Dale	26	42	85	127	449	234	683	17.27	9.00
Skelmanthorpe	24	44	53	97	430	269	699	17.92	11.21
	543	935	1,597	2,532	10,269	8,023	18,292	18.91	14.78

During the year an experimental Weighing Centre was opened at Emley with monthly sessions, and a medical officer commenced to attend the New Mill Weighing Centre monthly.

Premature Babies.

During the year 47 babies weighing 5½lb. or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the Division, and 11 were born at home. Of those born at home 2 were transferred to hospital and one died at home during the first 24 hours. The remaining 8 survived at the end of one month.

Particulars of survival are shown in the following table :— ...

THE FATE OF PREMATURE BABIES BORN IN THE DIVISIONAL AREA

Weight Group lb.	Number of Premature Births						Number Dying (days of survival).														Over 14 up to 28 days	Number Surviving Over 28 Days					Percent- age Survival in 1949
	Born Alive					Born Dead	First Week							Second Week								A	B1	B2	C	T	
	A	B1	B2	C	T		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
5-5½	2	-	18	6	26		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	17	6	25	96.2	
4½-5	2	1	4	2	9		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	2	9	100.0	
4-4½	4	-	4	-	8		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	8	100.0	
3½-4	1	-	6	-	7		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	71.4	
3-3½	1	-	1	-	2		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	50.0	
2½-3	-	-	1	2	3		-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	33.3	
2-2½	1	-	1	-	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	100.0	
1½-2	-	-	1	-	1		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00.0	
	11	1	36	10	58	11	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	33	8	51	87.9	

Total unadjusted live births

Number of live premature births

Percentage of total live births

Number born dead

.....

.....

.....

.....

1,114

58

5.2

41

A: Born at home and attended by a midwife.

B1: Born in a Private Nursing Home.

B2: Born in a Maternity Home.

C: Born in a General Hospital.

T: Total.

At the end of the year one midwife had attended a special course of training in the care of premature babies at the Sorrento Hospital, Birmingham.

One Premature Baby Outfit is available in the Division and is kept at the Divisional Health Office. Arrangements are made for the outfit to be conveyed by ambulance to any household where its use is thought to be advisable by the midwife. During the year the outfit was never called into use.

Day Nurseries.

There are no Day Nurseries in the Division. During the year recommendations were put forward by the Ministry of Labour and National Service that Day Nurseries be established in Holmfirth, Skelmanthorpe and Slaithwaite, in order to free female labour for the export drive. Numerous enquiries were made as to the extent such nurseries would be used if established. Owing to difficulties of sites and the fact that there appeared to be little call for nursery facilities in any reasonably compact area, the proposals were eventually withdrawn.

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948

An application for registration of a private nursery at Honley controlled by a textile firm was under consideration by the West Riding County Council at the end of the year.

School Health Service

Considerable progress has been made in the routine administration of the School Health Service, during the year, but the service has been handicapped by the lack of medical and nursing staff.

Until Dr. W. G. Smeaton took up his appointment of Deputy Divisional Medical Officer in March no full-time medical officer was available although Dr. J. R. Cockroft was able to give some very valuable part-time service. From March onwards it has been possible to keep up to date with medical inspections but shortage of health visitors has prevented follow-up work being done as thoroughly as is desirable.

Medical Inspections

Arrangements are made for each school child to be medically examined at least 3 times during his school life with special examinations and re-examination as necessary. The first routine examinations take place on entry to school, i.e. usually at 5 years; the second during the year prior to transfer to a secondary school, i.e. at 10 years +; and the third during the last year at school, i.e. 14 years+.

Pupils continuing attendance beyond 15 years are given additional routine examinations at 16 and 18 years. Children who at routine or special examinations are found to have defects which require observation or treatment are re-examined each time a school medical inspection takes place. It is intended that a school medical inspection will be arranged at each school in the Division twice in each school year. It was not possible to realise this objective completely in 1949 but during the year 117 inspections were arranged at 68 schools or separate departments in the Division. At these inspections 4,484 periodic and 2,536 special or re-examinations were carried out, as compared with 3,620 and 211 for the year 1948.

Details are given in the following tables :—

Periodic Medical Inspections.

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups :

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,494
Second age group	...	...	...	...	995
Third age group	...	...	...	...	712

Total	3,201
-------	-----	-----	-----	-------

Number of other periodic inspections	1,283
--------------------------------------	-------

Grand Total	4,484
-------------	-----	-----	-------

Other Inspections :

Number of Special Inspections	...	1,433
-------------------------------	-----	-------

Number of re-inspections	1,103
--------------------------	-----	-----	-------

Total	2,536
-------	-----	-----	-------

Defects Found:

Of the pupils examined 663 individual pupils were found to require treatment for one or more defects. The following tables give details of the defects found :—

Group	Defective Vision (excluding Squint).	For any of the other conditions recorded in table of defects	Total Individual Pupils
Entrants	33	154	178
Second Age Group	100	64	152
Third Age Group	55	49	98
Total (prescribed groups)	188	267	428
Other periodic inspections	160	86	235
GRAND TOTAL....	348	353	663

Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year Ended 31st December, 1949.

(All defects noted at medical inspection as requiring treatment are included in this return, whether or not this treatment was begun before the date of the inspection.)

Defect or Disease.	Number of Defects.			
	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections.	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not treatment
Skin	8	9	4	2
Eyes: (a) Vision	348	262	121	108
(b) Squint	3	5	3	3
(c) Other....	5	12	1	8
Ears: (a) Hearing	5	9	1	5
(b) Otitis Media	10	2	3	1
(c) Other....	—	2	1	6
Nose or Throat	185	158	39	66
Speech	2	8	11	10
Cervical Glands	1	1	1	1
Heart and Circulation	2	14	1	9
Lungs	5	61	3	16
Developmental (a) Hernia	1	1	1	2
(b) Other	5	15	2	3
Orthopaedic (a) Posture	7	50	1	7
(b) Flat Foot	30	59	38	30
(c) Other	27	13	7	9
Nervous System (a) Epilepsy	1	4	—	1
(b) Other	4	18	4	5
Psychological (a) Development	23	6	20	6
(b) Stability	—	—	—	—
Other	29	44	7	12
TOTAL	701	753	269	310

General Condition :

All pupils given a routine examination are classified as to general condition. In 30% this was considered to be good, in 67.5 per cent to be fair and in 2.5 per cent to be poor. Details are as follows :—

Age Group	Number of Pupils Inspected	(A) Good		(B) Fair		(C) Poor	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants	1494	381	25.5	1074	71.9	39	2.6
Second Age Group	995	272	27.4	691	69.4	32	3.2
Third Age Group	712	264	37.1	435	61.1	13	1.8
Other Periodic Inspections....	1283	428	33.4	828	64.5	27	2.1
TOTAL	4484	1345	30.0	3028	67.5	111	2.5

Other Examinations :

In addition to the routine and special examinations of children at school medical inspections, 218 children were examined at home or at school for various reasons, including non-attendance at school, suitability to attend school camps, participate in part-time employment or entertainment, and regarding the need for special educational treatment.

Arrangements for Treatment.

There are no separate School Clinics in the Division but schoolchildren are seen by the medical officers and receive treatment for minor ailments at Infant Welfare Clinics. During the year 951 attendances were made by schoolchildren.

Special clinics are arranged for children suffering from ear, nose and throat defects and defective vision. The former are held at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Mr. F. Gamm being the consultant until the 31st December, 1949. During the year 10 sessions were held and 225 children attended. Operative treatment was recommended in 177 cases and was carried out in 47.

Children with defective vision may obtain advice and treatment either through the National Health Service or by attending special clinics conducted in hired premises in different parts of the Division by Dr. J. V. Kirkwood, the School Oculist. The National Health Service Act has had a very retarding influence on the time taken to obtain glasses prescribed. In a recent investigation it was found to be quite common for a child to wait 6 or even 9 months for a pair of glasses as compared with 2 or 3 weeks when they were provided by the County Council under contract.

The parents of children suffering from major defects are advised to seek the advice of their family practitioners.

Owing to the difficulty of distinguishing between cases treated under the Authority's schemes and those treated otherwise, the treatment tables include all cases known to the Authority to have received treatment whether at their own clinics or elsewhere:—

Minor Ailments (Excluding Uncleanliness).

	No. of Defects treated or under treatment during the year.
Skin: Ringworm—Scalp: (i) X-Ray treatment	1
(ii) Other Treatment	4
Ringworm—Body	5
Scabies	2
Impetigo	27
Other skin diseases	26
Eye Disease: (External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint, and cases admitted to hospital)	44
Ear Defects: (Treatment for serious diseases of the ear, e.g. operative treatment in hospital, are not recorded here but in the body of the School Medical Officer's Annual Report)	25
Miscellaneous: (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	434
TOTAL	568
Total number of attendances at Authority's Minor Ailments Clinics	951

Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments.)

	No. of Defects dealt with
Errors of Refraction (including squint). (Operations for squint are recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report)	496
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded under Minor Ailments)	—
TOTAL	496

Number of pupils for whom spectacles were :—

(a) prescribed	... .. 302
(b) obtained	... .. not known

Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat :

	Total number treated.
Received operative treatment:	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	273
(b) for other nose and throat conditions	15
Received other forms of treatment	—
TOTAL	288

Children with orthopaedic defects were referred to the special West Riding County Council clinics at the Halifax Royal Infirmary, Staincliffe General Hospital, Dewsbury, and the clinic at 46, Church Street, Barnsley, while children requiring child guidance treatment were invited to attend the Child Guidance Clinic at Barnsley.

In addition to 4 pupils who on account of speech defects are on the Register of Handicapped Pupils, 25 pupils were on a waiting list for speech therapy at the end of the year. No facilities are at present available in the Division.

Inspections for Cleanliness :

All schools are visited by the health visitor at least once a quarter for the purpose of inspecting all pupils regarding bodily cleanliness. The parents of children found to be infested with vermin (and for this purpose nits are considered to be vermin) are visited by the health visitor and are sent a communication from the office. The more heavily infested cases are excluded from school for a few days in order to give the parents an opportunity to rid the children of vermin. The excluded children are re-examined before or immediately on returning to school.

During the year 23,417 examinations were made and 1,189 instances of infestation were found. Although in many cases the infestation was slight and frequently the same children were found to be infested on each visit, the fact that 541 individual pupils, or 6.42% of the school population, were found to be infested during the year is a grave reflection on parental care.

Handicapped Pupils :

A register is maintained of all pupils who owing to some mental or physical disability require special educational treatment. During the year 196 pupils have been examined with reference to their need of special educational treatment, and recommendations for the provision of same were made in 116 cases.

At the end of the year 145 pupils were included in the register, the sub-division into the various classes being as follows :—

Maladjusted	6
Deaf	2
Delicate	17
Speech	4
Partially Sighted	6
Blind	1
Physically Handicapped	20
Educationally Sub-Normal	39
	—
	145
	—

The number of pupils who were away at Special Schools at the end of the year was 13, the details being as follows :—

Category	No. away	Location of Special School
Deaf	2	Royal Residential School for the Deaf, Doncaster.
Partially Sighted	3	School for Partially Sighted Children, Fulwood, Preston.
Physically Handicapped	2	1 at Thorpe Arch Orthopaedic Hospital. 1 at Adela Shaw Orthopaedic Hospital, Kirbymoorside.
Delicate	6	2 at Ingleborough Hall, Clapham. 1 at Bradstock Lockett Hospital, Southport. 3 at Oak Bank Open Air School, Sevenoaks.

Owing to the shortage of places in Residential Special Schools and Hostels considerable difficulty is experienced in placing pupils in suitable schools, and at the end of the year 79 pupils in the following groups were awaiting placement :—

Maladjusted	5
Delicate	13
Educationally Sub-normal	49
Blind	1
Physically Handicapped	8
Partially Sighted	3
	—
	79
	—

Sanitary Conditions of School Premises

Although most of the schools in the Division are of considerable age they are generally speaking kept in a reasonable state of repair. A number, however, lack modern sanitary conveniences and there is a general shortage of soap and towels.

At each routine medical inspection a tour of the school premises is made by the visiting medical officer, and a report submitted. Particulars of any sanitary defects found are sent to the Divisional Education Officer, or the School Correspondent in the case of Voluntary Schools, and a request made that the defects be remedied as soon as possible. A copy of the letter sent is passed to the local sanitary inspector and he is asked to follow up the complaint until it is remedied.

Care and After-Care

Health Visiting

At the commencement of the year 9 Health Visitors were engaged in the Division. During the year 2 new appointments were made and

there was two resignations. The position at the end of the year is shown below :—

Urban District	Authorised Establishment	Staff at 31st Dec., 1949
Colne Valley	4½	3
Denby Dale	2	1
Holmfirth	4	3
Kirkburton	3½	1
Meltham	1	1
	15	9

The following is a summary of the visits made by health visitors during the year :—

District	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children Between Ages of 1 and 5 Years		Other Cases
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits
Colne Valley	68	138	369	2,284	30	1,916	207
Denby Dale	67	191	191	1,603	104	841	114
Holmfirth	13	20	344	2,696	6	1,827	190
Kirkburton	183	424	221	2,168	9	2,485	148
Meltham	58	100	103	674	9	479	58
Division 20	389	873	1,228	9,425	158	7,549	719

Home Nursing

Some progress has been made during the year with the re-organisation of the Home Nursing Service with the view to separating entirely home nursing from midwifery. A number of nurse/midwives have been relieved of midwifery duties and become full-time home nurses. The establishment of home nurses approved by the Ministry of Health under the National Health Service Act and the staff position at the end of the year are as follows :—

Urban District	Authorised Establishment	Staff at 31st Dec., 1949	
		Home Nurses	Nurse-Midwives
Colne Valley	3	2	1
Denby Dale	2	1	2
Holmfirth	2	3	—
Kirkburton	3	—	5
Meltham	1	1	—
Relief	1	—	1
Division 20	12	7	9

Particulars of the work done in the various districts by the home nurses and nurse/midwives are shown in the following table. The amount of work done by the home nurses still varies considerably and further readjustment of districts is required as soon as this can be arranged.

	Home Nursing			Midwifery	
	Transfers	New Patients	Visits Paid	Confinements	Visits Paid
COLNE VALLEY URBAN DISTRICT					
Golcar	12	166	3,506	—	11
Marsden	13	65	928	26	778
Slaithwaite and Linthwaite	12	150	2,345	—	1
	37	381	6,779	26	790
DENBY DALE URBAN DISTRICT					
Denby & Cumberworth	9	70	1,392	5	133
Clayton West	8	50	821	9	251
Emley, Skelmanthorpe, Scissett	27	179	3,508	20	434
	44	299	5,721	34	818
HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT....					
Holmfirth	30	110	2,466	—	—
New Mill	23	57	2,486	—	—
Honley	21	140	2,710	18	548
	74	307	7,662	18	548
KIRKBURTON URBAN DISTRICT					
Kirkheaton and Lepton	7	142	2,254	8	167
Kirkburton	13	108	1,952	25	618
Shelley	6	33	978	9	312
Shepley	11	60	1,626	4	145
Flockton	12	132	2,606	19	467
	49	475	9,416	65	1,709
MELTHAM URBAN DISTRICT					
Meltham	14	130	2,536	4	93
Total for Division	218	1,592	32,114	147	3,958

Cases Treated :

An attempt has been made to analyse the types and duration of cases treated during the year. It has been found that there is considerable variation between the different districts. In some, the nurses time is largely devoted to attendance on the chronic sick, whilst in other districts many acute medical and post-operative surgical cases receive attention. Increased use is also being made of home nurses by general practitioners for the administration of drugs by injection, and particularly of penicillin.

At Emley it has been customary for some time past for the nurse to hold morning and evening dressing sessions at her home. This has continued and during the year 28 patients suffering mainly from minor injuries have made 179 attendances.

Cases Discharged :

Of the 1,374 cases the nurses ceased to attend during the year, 1,015 were discharged as recovered, 150 were transferred to hospital and 209 died.

The tables given below show the duration of treatment and the number of visits paid to patients in each group.

Patients under Treatment	Patients.		
	Recovered	Transferred	Died
Less than 1 week	356	68	86
1- 2 weeks	288	20	31
2- 4 weeks	225	20	33
4-13 weeks	123	27	37
3- 6 months	16	9	13
Over 6 months	7	6	9
TOTAL	1,015	150	209

Number of Visits Paid	To Patients Who		
	Recovered	Transferred	Died
3 or less	256	37	36
4- 7	258	35	55
8-15	313	34	50
16-30	129	27	19
31-50	38	10	19
51-75	13	4	13
76-100	4	1	9
Over 100	4	2	8
TOTAL	1,015	150	209

Types of Cases Attended.

The new cases attended and the total visits paid have, as last year, been analysed. From the table given below it will be seen that Septic Conditions provided the largest number of new cases (217). Post Operative Dressings (168) were the next most frequent and showed a considerable increase on the previous year. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System (120) were followed by Injuries (87), Acute Abdominal Conditions (86) and Constipation (86).

New cases of Cancer, all sites, numbered 47 as compared with 36 in the second half of the previous year, and those of Bronchitis and Pneumonia were 43 and 63 respectively.

The total number of visits paid to the cases of the various diseases bears little relationship to the number of new cases.

Patients suffering from the following conditions received the largest number of visits :—

Septic Conditions	3,602	Visits
Post-Operative Dressings	3,209	„
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	2,876	„
Senility	2,823	„
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2,523	„
Rheumatism and Arthritis	1,991	„
Cancer (all sites)	1,642	„
Injuries	1,361	„

The number of acute cases dealt with varies very much in the different nurses' districts, but on the average it would appear that more time is spent on the nursing of cases of chronic illness than on acute work, although there has been a notable increase in the number of post-operative cases attended.

Type of Case	New Cases	Visits Paid
Infectious	12	108
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	321
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	38
Influenza	12	122
Pneumonia	63	1,196
Bronchitis	43	572
Other Respiratory Diseases	29	387
Cancer of Uterus	3	27
Cancer of Stomach and Intestines	10	269
Cancer of Breast	2	85
Cancer of Other Sites	32	1,261
Diabetes	6	870
Cerebral Haemorrhage'	60	2,523
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	120	2,876
Post-Operative Dressings	168	3,209
Injuries	87	1,361
Burns and Scalds	64	820
Septic Conditions (Boils, Abscesses, Carbuncles)	217	3,602
Uterine Prolapse	53	692
Other Gynaecological Cases	42	404
Male Genito-urinary Conditions	3	303
Rheumatic and Arthritic Conditions	31	1,991
Ear and Eye Conditions	47	401
Varicose Ulcers	14	539
Impetigo	2	12
Other Skin Diseases	17	380
Chronic Diseases of Nervous System	17	511
Mastitis	19	218
Acute Abdominal Conditions	86	706
Constipation	86	288
Thrombosis	19	276
Infantile Disorders	63	216
Circumcision	54	344
Senility	80	2,823
Other Conditions	236	2,363
TOTAL	1,812	32,114

Housing and Travelling Facilities for Home Nurses and Midwives.

Difficulties with regard to housing and transport have been encountered during the year but provision of 3 additional motor cars by the County Council, and the private purchase of a car by a midwife has eased the situation somewhat. At the end of the year 5 home nurses, 3 nurse/midwives and one midwife were using County Council cars; one home nurse, 3 nurse/midwives and 5 midwives were receiving a travelling allowance for the use of their own cars; and one home nurse, 2 nurse/midwives and one midwife had to depend on public transport as a means of conveyance.

A telephone has also been installed at the home of one nurse/midwife where this facility was not previously available.

Home Help Service.

Little progress was made with the enlargement of the Home Help Service until June 1949 when the wages and conditions of service of home helps were improved. Since then there has been a slow stream of entrants to the service but at no time has half the number of home helps allocated to the Division been employed. The difficulty is recruiting suitable women is due to the fact that there is a great shortage of female labour, both full and part-time, in the textile factories of the area, and women out-workers can easily obtain part-time work at home.

In spite of the shortage of home helps it has been possible for some help, although not always adequate, to be given to almost every applicant. During the year 56 cases were provided with home helps, the reasons for the provision being as follows :—

(i) Ill	29
(ii) Lying-in	12
(iii) Expectant mothers	5
(iv) Aged	8
(v) Children of school age	2
	—+—
	56

The Divisional establishment of full-time home helps is 17, whilst the average number employed during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1949, was 4.75. At the end of the year 16 part-time home helps were on the register.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, provides that, "where a Medical Officer of Health of a county district certifies that a person is suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated is living in insanitary conditions and is unable to devote to himself, and is not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention the County District Council may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order to remove the person to a suitable hospital or other place and be maintained there."

Action was taken under this section in the Colne Valley Urban District during 1949, as follows :—

An elderly infirm woman living alone in insanitary conditions and unfit to look after herself was removed in March by Order of the Court to Stanley View, Wakefield, for 3 months. The Order has been renewed at 3 monthly intervals and is still in force.

Ambulance Service.

Under the provisions of Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, an Ambulance Service is operated by the County Council. The Division is known as Ambulance District No. 16, and the depot is situate at Springwood Street, Huddersfield. Telephone No. 4966.

The service is provided free of charge for all journeys, subject to a proviso that except in an emergency, journeys outside the Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester Regional Hospital areas respectively, shall require the prior approval of the County Medical Officer, expressed through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Superintendent of the Huddersfield Depot and, as will be seen from the following figures which have been kindly supplied by Mr. V. Whitaker, the County Ambulance Officer, much of the work consists of the conveyance of patients for treatment as out-patients at various hospitals and particularly at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Of 13,079 patients carried during the year, 11,086 were hospital out-patients, 10,925 being sitting cases. The large amount of this type of work necessitates a number of patients travelling together and detours have often to be made. As a result delays sometimes occur in the arrival and despatch of patients at the hospitals. Any complaints received are investigated, as are also any questions of the use or abuse of ambulance facilities.

In all, during the year the ambulances from the Huddersfield County Depot made 6,346 journeys involving 110,471 miles and carried 13,079 patients, 2,154 of these being stretcher cases.

Particulars of the cases carried are given below :—

Accident	147
Urgent	506
Maternity	158
Infectious	13
Mental	44
General	1,125
Out-Patients	11,086
	<hr/>
	13,079
	<hr/>

In addition to the ambulances stationed at the Huddersfield Depot, an ambulance, the property of the Holmfirth Urban District Council is operated as part of the County Service. This ambulance is available for accident work in the Holmfirth area, the staff coming on duty when called. During the year the Holmfirth ambulance carried 99 cases and travelled 591 miles.

Mental Health.

The mental health work in the Division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under voluntary and statutory supervision and under guardianship orders.

The work is done mainly by the Mental Health Social Worker who also provides reports about the home conditions of defectives for the information of Hospital Management Committees, when applications for leave of absence or renewal of licence are under consideration. The Social Worker also gives training in handicrafts of various sorts to suitable patients.

Very little has been done regarding the provision of personal histories and background information relating to patients admitted to and discharged from Mental Hospitals, as this work in the Division is largely done by the Social Worker attached to the local Mental Hospital.

At the end of the year the number of patients under supervision was as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Under Guardianship	2	4	6
Under Statutory Supervision	30	29	59
On Licence from Institutions	2	3	5
Under Voluntary Supervision	—	2	2
Observation	3	1	4

INDEX

	Pages		Pages
A		Home Nursing Service ...	
Ambulance Facilities ...	10, 27a	Hospitals and Clinics ...	23a
Animals, Slaughtering of	19	Houses	10
Ante-Natal Clinics	10a	—Number inhabited ...	5
Ante-Natal Hostel	12a	Housing	16
Area of District	5, 1a	Housing-Midwives and	
Acute Poliomyelitis	20, 6a	Home Nurses	26a
B		I	
Bakehouses	19	Ice Cream	18
Bed Bugs,		Immunisation and	
Eradication of	14	Vaccination	8a
Birth and Birth Rate	5, 6, 9, 4a	Infant Mortality	9, 4a
C		Infectious Diseases	20
Camping Sites	14	Inspection and Supervision	
Cancer	21	of Food	18
Care of Mothers and		Introduction	4
Young Children	10a	L	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	20	Laboratory Facilities ...	10
Child Welfare Clinics ...	14a	M	
Clinics	10	Maternal Mortality	9
Closet Accommodation ...	13	Maternity Accommodation	12a
D		Measles	21
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	18	Meat and other Foods ...	18
Day Nurseries	16a	Medical Inspection of	
Deaths and Death Rates	5—9, 4a	School Children	16a
Diarrhoea	9	Mental Deficiency Acts	28a
Diphtheria	20, 8a	Midwifery Domiciliary	9a
Drainage and Sewerage ..	13	Midwifery—Institutional	12a
F		Midwives Acts—Statutory	
Factories Inspections ...	14	Notifications	10a
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	19	Milk	18
Food Poisoning	8a	N	
G		National Assistance Act,	
Gas and Air Analgesia	10a	1948	27a
H		Natural and Social Con-	
Handicapped Pupils	21a	ditions of the District	6
Health Services, General		Nurseries and Child Mind-	
Provision of	10	ers Regulation Act,	
Health Visiting	22a	1938	19a
Home Help Services	26a	Nursing in the Home	10
		O	
		Obstetrical Flying Squad	11a
		Overcrowding	16, 17

INDEX (Continued)

	Pages		Pages
P			
Pneumonia	20	Shop Acts	13
Population	5, 6, 1a, 2a	Smallpox	8a
Premature Babies	14a	Smoke Abatement	13
Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other diseases	20	Staff	3, 10
Public Cleansing	13	Statistics—Comparative	9, 3a
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	20	Statistics—Divisional	4a
		Statistics, Summary of ...	5
		Stillbirths	5, 6
		Swimming Baths	14
R		T	
Rateable Value	5	Travelling Facilities—	
Rats and Mice Destruction Acts, 1919.	14	Home Nurses and Mid- wives	26a
Rivers and Streams	13	Treatment Centres and Clinics	10
		Tuberculosis	21
S		V	
Salvage	13	Vaccination and Immun- isation	8a
Sanitary Inspection of Area	15	Vital Statistics	6, 4a
Scarlet Fever	20		
Schools	15	W	
School Health Service ...	16a	Water Supply	12
School Premises —		Whooping Cough	20, 9a
Sanitary Conditions ...	22a		
Sewerage and Drainage ...	13		

